

Interim Space Update

As you know, we are moving, and November will be our last month at Danvers Street. Until our new Dolores Street location is ready, we will be using interim space at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th Street, catty-corner from our new building. We are extremely grateful to St. Matthew's.

Services

Our first Shabbat service at St. Matthew's will be on December 12. Limited parking is available in the lot right next to the church. We are working on other parking possibilities, and will let you know before the December 12 service. Services will begin as usual at 8:15 pm. Our monthly Niggun service will also be at St. Matthew's that night, at 7:15 pm.

Unfortunately, there is a flight of stairs from the street level to the sanctuary, and no elevator. If this is a problem for you, please call Tiela Chalmers at 386-6738.

Office Hours

During the interim time, our office staff and rabbi will move to St. Matthew's as well. Because of space constraints, office hours will be limited. More spe-

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Final Shabbat Service

Our last service on Danvers Street will be Friday, November 28. Because that is the day after Thanksgiving, we will hold our farewell service on Friday, November 21, followed by a special oneg, during which our Klezmer band, *Gay iz Mir*, will play. Danvers Street will be closed to traffic allowing us to dance and sing in the neighborhood to which we will be saying goodbye. Don't miss this exciting and historic moment in CSZ history.

Scholar in Residence: Rabbi Rebecca Alpert

The Adult Education Committee is pleased to open its Shabbat Morning Scholar in Residence series on November 22 at 10 am with Rabbi Rebecca Alpert. Rabbi Alpert, author of the just released *Like Bread on the Seder Plate: Jewish Lesbians and the Transformation of Tradition*, will lead an engaging and thought provoking discussion on the expanding boundaries of Judaism, Torah and our lives.

Rabbi Litman's Installation

We will celebrate the installation of our new spiritual leader, Rabbi Jane Litman, on Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6. Rabbi Litman will formally be installed at Shabbat services on December 5 by Rabbi Richard Levy, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and Rabbi Margaret Holub, of the Mendicino Jewish Community. Several other rabbis and clergy will be on hand to welcome Rabbi Litman. Services will be held at the Unitarian Center, Franklin Street at Geary Boulevard, and will begin at 8:15 pm. Child care will not be available.

On Saturday night, December 6, we will continue our celebration with a Havdalah service and h'ors d'oeuvres and dessert party, including games and music. Festivities begin at 7:30. Couvet is \$27 to offset our costs. We don't yet know the location. Watch your mailbox for an invitation. If you'd like to help out, please call Trudi Hauptman at 334-5785. Members of the congregation are invited to welcome Rabbi Litman by baking a dessert from our cookbook or bringing some fresh fruit for the oneg. We also need volunteers to help set up and clean up the oneg. If you can help in some way, please call Jeff Rubin at 647-9201.

Healing Service Changes Location

As of Monday, November 3, the healing service led by Rabbis Miriam Senturia and Eric Weiss of Ruach Ami: Bay Area Jewish Healing Center, will be held at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California St. at Webster, in the first-floor chapel. The healing services begin at 6 pm and will continue to meet on the first and third Mondays of the month. As we leave the building on Danvers Street, we are thankful for the support CSZ has given Ruach Ami throughout the years and look forward to returning when the new building is completed. For more information, please call Ruach Ami at 750-4197.



Rabbi Litman with Erev Rosh Hashanah service leaders Tiela Chalmers and Steve Weitz.
Photo by Michael Bettinger.

By the Rivers of Babylon

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down; yea we wept, when we remembered Zion."

So sang the Jewish people in the first Babylonian diaspora. They wondered how they would practice their religion without a Temple, an altar, or the sacred Holy of Holies where the tablets of the Covenant rested. In their exile, these Jews met together in their homes for support and consolation on the Sabbath. They told stories from the old days, sang the psalms and liturgies from the Temple, and read the few scrolls rescued from the massive destruction. And slowly, from the ashes of the ancient Temple-based Israelite religion, Judaism arose.

Unlike the Hebrew cult, Judaism was portable—based less on ceremony and more on study, less on grand ritual and more on home observance. Its leaders arose from the people: a stonecutter with a good voice, a silversmith who could read, a midwife who could recount the stories of the generations. As the scholar Abraham Joshua Heschel explained, Judaism was created from the transition from holy place to sacred time. Jews became less focused on the material and more on the intangibles of spiritual life.

That's important to understand as our congregation begins its time of wandering. We need to remember that the most important part of our congregation—our community—is what we take with us. Although it is inevitable that we will experience sadness and inconvenience as we say farewell to Danvers Street, we must remind ourselves that our congregation isn't a building, but a tapestry of wonderful people woven together by a commitment to Torah and God.

Just as the Exile began in loss and resulted in the creation of whole new forms of religious expression, so will our transition ultimately bring us growth and fulfillment as a community.

So much has been happening in the congregation—programs, study ses-



Rabbi Jane Litman

Continued on page 8

Bombing of Reform Kindergarten

Sometime during the night of August 31, the Reform Gan (kindergarten/nursery school) in Mevasseret Zion was firebombed and everything inside was destroyed. (Both CSZ trips in 1993 and 1996 visited the absorption center in Mevasseret, just outside Jerusalem). Forty-two children, their parents and teachers came to school the following morning, only to find a burnt out shell instead of the newly furnished, newly equipped and expanded school. Although an official investigation has not yet been completed, the consensus in Israel is that the fire was caused by anti-Reform elements.

The reaction was swift and supportive. The mayor of Mevasseret Zion condemned the attack, promising a thorough investigation, and immediately made space available for the school to reopen. Donations of school supplies and money poured in and the school was able to re-open less than a week after the incident.

In response to this event, the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) and the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) have decided not only to immediately rebuild the

school, but to embark on a major capital campaign to strengthen and expand Reform institutions and programs in Israel.

Not long after the incident in Mevasseret, the Reform movement reached an agreement in principle with the United Jewish Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations, to pursue a campaign whose goal is to raise \$10 million for the Reform movement and its programs in Israel. For the first time, the Reform movement will have the cooperation of the central philanthropic bodies of American Jewry to raise large amounts of resources for our movement. The only way to change the climate in Israel is to build on our presence there.

The leaders of ARZA and the UAHC are urging members of the Reform movement to participate fully in the local UJA campaigns. All of us have an interest in seeing the campaign succeed in order to meet the needs of the local Jewish community and of Israel.

If you are not already an ARZA member, join and support its work as it continues to fight for the rights of all Jews to practice Judaism as they wish in the land of Israel. For more information, contact Ron Lezell at 626-5748.

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Struggling With God

—Tory Weiser

I've hit a snag. Not my first snag and probably not my last, but a big one nonetheless.

It hit me during the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services while singing the Avinu Malkainu. I love the Avinu Malkainu. I find it to be perhaps the most moving piece in the entire high holiday liturgy. But then I looked at the English translation. It didn't agree with me at all. Avinu Malkainu and Imeinu Malkateinu mean "Our Father, Our Ruler" and "Our Mother, Our Ruler." That image of God is the furthest from my mind. I grew up with parents who believed that physical, emotional and sexual torture of children were appropriate. That kind of upbringing does not allow for a belief in a parental God.

The good part of this snag is that it forces me to struggle with my beliefs about God and how my beliefs fit within the Jewish faith. I've felt this struggle before, but I was never encouraged to explore what I believed and what I didn't—or why. One of the aspects of Judaism that I find so appealing is that questioning and asking why are at the core of being Jewish.

When I was a young child being raised as an Episcopalian, my doubts and questions were rejected outright. We had no right to question the role of Jesus or the manner in which our souls were re-

deemed. We were told to simply accept the Church's doctrine. I remember being puzzled, then later angry and resentful about the lack of answers to my questions. I left the Episcopal church as soon as I was confirmed and could choose my own path.

Later, my mother inducted me into a satanic cult. Open questioning wasn't merely unacceptable; it was often met with hostility and violence. It was impossible to question the cult's beliefs or practices. I became much too terrified to ask questions; even my internal struggle virtually disappeared. Fortunately, I spent only about three years in the cult before it disbanded. I emerged relatively unscathed. I knew there had to be an opposite end of the spectrum to the extreme evil of the cult: that's where I found God. And I immediately resumed my questioning of and struggling with a God who would allow such evil to exist.

My struggles and questions still continue. Why does God allow evil to flourish? Why did God allow me to go through such pain growing up? Why did I survive it, while many others do not? What qualities does God truly have? Is God merciful? just? compassionate? wise? Do we really have free will or are we following a script? I have so many questions. In Judaism, I have finally found a place to ask them.



High Holiday Ensemble. Photo by Michael Bettinger

Adult Education Classes

Our Adult Education Committee is pleased to announce three upcoming classes. Call the office to register and find out location information.

Jewish History in Seven Easy Lessons

Know bits and pieces, but have trouble putting it together? Learn the key events and personalities of Jewish life from the days of Ancient Israel until the 20th century. Discover how social, economic and political changes affected Jewish religious life and practice.

Rabbi Litman will teach this class, which runs on Tuesdays, from November 4 to December 16, 7-8:30 pm. This class is free to members and \$100 for non-members.

Torah Chanting (Trope)

Study with CSZ member Brian Besser, computer software instructor with years of classroom experience and expert Torah chanter, and you will learn how to chant any verse in the Torah! The class will practice with the week's Torah portion, and by its end, you will be ready to chant any passage. Copies of texts and tapes for practice at home will be provided. You don't need a singing voice, but you must have a reading knowledge of Hebrew.

The Trope Class will run on Tuesdays, November 4 to December 16, 7-9 pm. The materials fee is \$18 for members and \$36 for non-members.

Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew

Do you feel that understanding the prayers would deepen your sense of spirituality? Then join us as we read the book of Ruth as a vehicle for studying the grammar and vocabulary of Biblical Hebrew. Prerequisite: basic Hebrew reading ability.

Phyllis Mintzer will lead this class, which will run Wednesdays, November 5 to January 21, 7-9 pm. The fee is \$50 for members and \$65 for non-members, plus the cost of the textbook.



CSZ to Co-sponsor Film Event

Along with the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco and Congregation Emanu-El, CSZ is co-sponsoring a screening of "The Return of Sarah's Daughters," a documentary film which explores the lives of two self-reliant, out-spoken secular Jewish women who are drawn to Orthodox Judaism. One woman, Rus, finds fulfillment as an Orthodox Jew. The other woman, Myriam, a spiritually-oriented lesbian, tries to fit in, but ultimately decides to leave Orthodoxy to go to Rabbinic school. A panel discussion with filmmaker Marcia Jarmel, Chabad Shabbat Director Hinda Langer, and Congregation Emanu-El's Assistant Rabbi Sydney Mintz will follow the film.

The screening and discussion will take place at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3200 California Street, on Thursday, November 13 at 7 pm. The cost is \$10 general admission, and \$8 JCCSF members. For more information, call Renée in the CSZ office or Claire Silver at 292-1254.

Shomrei Adamah: Guardians of the Land

The Torah teaches that we were put on earth to "till and tend" the land (Genesis 2:15). Part of our responsibility of tikkun olam, the repair of the world, is to care for the earth. CSZ member Susan Simpson, has organized an environmental restoration project that gives us an opportunity to do this work together. On Sunday November 9, Sha'ar Zahavniks are invited to work on removing non-native, evasive plants at Tennessee Valley in Marin. The work day will be from 9:30 am to approximately 2:30 pm. Volunteers need to bring a bag lunch and water, and are advised to wear long pants to avoid poison oak and layers to be prepared for variable weather. A group will meet at CSZ at 8:30 am to carpool to Marin. Call Susan at 510/728-2069 for directions, more information and to RSVP.

Members' Yahrzeits

7	Donald Albert
11	Bruce Apter
11	Sidney Rosenthal
15	Harvey Levine
16	Richard D. Wright
22	Tristano Palermino

Children's Education Board

Minutes of October 6, 1997

Rabbi Litman delivered the D'var Torah: Our ancestors did as much as we do to educate our children. Originally parents taught their children, and schools were established to provide Jewish education to children who were without parents (or perhaps in alternative family settings?). Eventually, children with parents were also placed in these schools, as the school became an increasingly important place for all Jewish children to learn in community.

1. Educator Position Update—Rabbi Bergadine's last day with Kadimah was October 18. The CEB extends its thanks to Rabbi Bergadine for all she's done and wishes her great success in her new job. Resumes for the position of Director of Education are being reviewed. Rabbi Litman, Personnel Committee Chair Susan Tubbesing, Diana Buchbinder and two representatives of the CEB, including Chair Ruth Rainero, will be responsible for making a recommendation to the CEB and Personnel Committee, who will then make a recommendation to the Va'ad. Rabbi Litman explained that this is not the ideal season for hiring such a position, but that she is confident we will find a qualified person.

2. Immediate Needs in Director's Absence—The CEB needs to ensure that the bases are covered until a new director is hired. There will be an on-sight CEB representative at Congregation Emanu-El to assist the teachers and ensure that class and oneg materials are provided. Stacey Shuster will be the contact for the teachers needing substitutes. Rabbi Litman will work on

lesson plans with each teacher. She will also find a teacher to be the contact with the Congregation Emanu-El custodian.

3. B'nai Mitzvah status—Rabbi Litman gave a report indicating that the 13 Mitzvot program is still in place. She has been meeting with Phyllis Mintzer and plans to be more involved with curriculum in the absence of a director. The CEB felt that we should hold a meeting with Rabbi Litman, Phyllis Mintzer and the b'nai mitzvah parents. Rabbi Litman said we are short on volunteer tutors and questions our ability to rely on this program. (To CSZ members and friends—please call the office if you'd be willing to tutor a Kadimah student in Hebrew.) Rabbi Litman plans on meeting with the tutors after the holidays.

4. Policy re: CEB configuration—Ruth handed out a draft copy for the CEB's review and future comment.

5. Curriculum content—Rabbi Litman reported that gay, lesbian and bisexual content occurs in the broader context of discussions about diverse family structures. Discussions of God are primarily through the use of open-ended questions.

6. Children at Kol Nidre—We discussed adding activities for school age children and the need to communicate about these to affected parents, largely due to security issues and the need to keep noise levels to a minimum.

7. Saturday vs. Sunday—Discussion tabled.

Next Meetings: Monday, November 3, 7pm, at Danvers Street; Monday, December 1, 7 pm, location TBA.



*Thanks to member support,
I have contributed over
\$4,000 to Mishkan Dolores.
Thank you!*



Deborah Udin
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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, non-members will receive a *Forward* subscription.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

November 1997/Volume 21, Issue 3.

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La'atid News

—Geoff Benjamin

La'atid, or Towards the Future, is CSZ's chavurah for younger adult members, with events open to all. We are sponsoring many exciting events during this next year, including, in November, Kiddush Levana, a chance to dance and sing to the moon at a traditional, invigorating service that celebrates the waxing of the moon. We will meet at the Community Room at 345 Church St. around 9 pm on Saturday, November 8. From there we'll drag some of the Sha'ar Zahav-nots (non-members) out to Dolores Park for a little running around following the Prospective Member Havdalah.

We will continue our Friday night coffee talks, but I'm taking a break. Different men and women will take turns leading the group. On the first Friday night of the month, we will go to a bar or a club instead of out for coffee. Make sure to bring your dancing shoes.

Havdalah Celebration for Prospective Members

Are you thinking about joining Sha'ar Zahav? Do you have questions about membership? Come celebrate Havdalah with us on Saturday, November 8, 7 pm, at the community room at 345 Church Street, behind the home of Alex Ingersoll and David Stein. You'll have a chance to meet Rabbi Litman, talk with the president and members of the Membership Committee, and enjoy home-baked desserts. To RSVP, call Sara Haber, at 621-1248, or Larry Wexler, at 510/523-6775.

Email Torah Study

Join over 2,500 Reform Jews who study Torah at home by receiving an email of commentaries on the weekly Torah portion through the UAHC's Department of Adult Jewish Growth. *Torat Hayim: Living Torah*, written by leading rabbis, educators and scholars, comes to you each Monday morning, providing insights into the upcoming Torah portion from a wide spectrum of views.

You can sign up or find out more about *Torat Hayim* by visiting <http://www.uahc.org/torah/>. If you don't have email access, you can receive *Torat Hayim* by fax or first class mail for a nominal charge. Call the Department of Adult Jewish Growth at 212/650-4087.

President's Column

Thanks All Around

This New Year brings with it many changes for all of us at Sha'ar Zahav, starting with our high holiday services location, from the Unitarian Center to the Congregational Church.

Using the Congregational Church reminded me of just how difficult the uncertainty of change can be. I was reminded, too, that we can always count on our membership to rise to the occasion. In the



Diana Buchbinder

case of our change of venue, the high holiday planners and our office manager Lea Salem made quick decisions, rearranging plans and made a very different space work for us.

The success of our services this year is a tribute to their abilities to adapt their imagination and composure. Ritual Committee Coordinators Dev Naily and Nicole Bloom, Overall Coordinator Joe Hample, Usher Co-chairs Rachel Maclachlan and Nancy Silverrod, Child Care Coordinator David Couch, Oneg Coordinator Judith Cohn, Jose Luis Moscovich for the Ensemble and Signer Elisa Friedlander also deserve special thanks and recognition for their extraordinary work this year.

I also want to express my thanks to the many volunteers who joined the coordinators, and to those who did the fundraising appeals and the sermons. All of this work takes dedication, love of Judaism and a sacrifice of personal time; they are all very special people.

Our new spiritual guide, and my partner in leadership of the congregation, Rabbi Jane Litman also made the holidays special this year. Her thoughtful and challenging drashot, her insightful comments during services and her presence and warmth through services were wonderful. I heard many comments from members and visitors who were overjoyed that she has joined us, and I feel the same. I see these past holidays as our first peek at what will be possible with such a gifted rabbi. We are very lucky we have chosen each other.

This year's Junior Congregation and children's services were conducted by

Continued on page 7

Thanks For Your Help

—Nicole Bloom, Judith Cohen, David Couch,
Dev Felder Noily, Joe Hample and Rachel Maclachlan

Thanks to all who volunteered at the high holidays, especially:

Ritual

Brian Besser
Aaron Buchbinder
Diana Buchbinder
Tiela Chalmers
Daniel Chesir
Ruby Cymrot-Wu
Na'ama Firestone
Rena Fischer
Heather Fox
Lyssa Friedman
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Jason Gaber
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Jonathan Pannor
Avi Rose
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Jos Singer

Workshop for G/L Interfaith Couples

CSZ member Karen Erlichman, MSW, LCSW, will facilitate a workshop for gay and lesbian interfaith couples on Sunday, December 7, 12:30–5 pm at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3200 California Street. This workshop, sponsored by the Interfaith Connection, JCCSF and CSZ, will utilize a combination of group discussions and experimental approaches. Couples will have an opportunity to explore communication styles, embracing extended family, holidays and ritual, and creating spirituality.

The fee is \$20 per couple. For more information, contact Roseann Levitt at 292-1252.

HIV + Support Group

CSZ has an ongoing support group for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners, which meets on the third Saturday of every month. We also hold quarterly Shabbat dinners at the homes of group members. Mark your calendars:

Saturday, November 15, 3 pm: Support group led by Rabbi Litman and Robert Tat, location to be announced.

If you have any questions or would like to put your name on our confidential mailing list, please call the office. Join us.



Joe Hample, High Holidays coordinator,
and Rachel Maclachlan, Usher coordinator.
Photo by Michael Bettinger.

Mishkan Dolores— New Contributors

Total Pledged — \$1,233,530

Members/Staff

Smokey Cormier
Alan Ferrara
Allan Giannini
Joan Goldman
Louis Hirschmann
Leslie Katz
Nancy Levin
Alan Michels & Laureen Ok Sun Kim
Lisa Ochs and Lea Salem
Neil, Eva and Claudia Rosenbaum
Susan Simpson
Dana Vinicoff

Community

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Dennis & Gloria Berger
Diane Cash
Barbara & Harvey Chertok
Brian Christianson
Jeri Lynn Cohen & Jamie Kibben
Barbara and Bob Coulam
Rabbi Robert Daum & Frederick Fajar
Nina & Ed Diamond
Eleanor Dusedaw
Andy Estrin
Sydney & Joyce Fishman
Thelma Fox-Chalmers
Eleanor and Samuel Frishman
Andrew Gans
Daniel Funk & Marsha Gittes
Stephanie Hanaford
Valerie Hayden
Mary Ivas
Natalie & Jim Jalenak
Ellen Kugler
Martin & Randy Lasus
Dianne Levitin
Lyssa Newhall
Lisa Niver
O'Mahoney & Myer
Sherry Thomas & Lynn Witt
Bradford Trevathan
JoAnn Weinstein
Michael Whitman

New Members' Potluck

Come meet Rabbi Litman and CSZ leaders, learn more about Sha'ar Zahav, schmooze with other CSZ'niks and tour our new building! New and not-so-new members are invited to a potluck, November 16, 5-7 pm, at the community room at 345 Church St., behind the home of Alex Ingersoll and David Stein. The Membership Committee is sponsoring the event.

Bring a vegetarian or dairy dish or a dessert—enough to share with about six other people. Kids, partners, family and friends are welcome. For more information and to RSVP, call Sara Haber, at 621-1248, or Larry Wexler, at 510/523-6775.

We will also recognize and welcome new members to our congregation during Shabbat services on Friday, November 14, followed by an oneg in their honor.

Baby Chavurah

What do you get when you mix bagels and cream cheese with a sandbox and rattles? A fun morning with CSZ's baby chavurah, that's what. Connie Tell, Jeff Nathanson and Anya Nathanson-Tell invite all children under two, their families and any soon-to-be parents to a play date at their home on November 16 from 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Call Connie and Jeff at 285-6431 to RSVP.

Tot Shabbat

Toddlers, preschoolers and their families are invited to celebrate Shabbat together on November 14 at an interactive Shabbat Service led by Tiela Chalmers and Rabbi Litman. The program, geared to children between the ages of two and five, will focus on the story of Noah and the miracle of the rainbow. The Shabbat service will be held in the CSZ library beginning at 6:45 pm and will be followed by an oneg.

Winter Kallot

Are you a skier? Or do you think "beach" when winter storms begin?

Whichever you prefer, start planning now for a winter vacation where you can immerse yourself in the study of Jewish texts and live and pray in a community with other Reform Jews through the *kallah* (intensive study retreat) program offered by the UAHC's Department of Adult Jewish Growth.

The Winter Spirituality and Study Retreat will be held in south Florida over the weekend of January 9-11. For those who prefer alpine temperatures, there's *Slalom Rav*—a Study/Ski Adventure, February 25-March 1. No matter which you choose, you'll be studying with leading rabbis and teachers, and you're sure to return with a deeper understanding of, and commitment to, Judaism.

For more information, call the Department of Adult Jewish Growth at 212/650-4087 or visit the Web site at <http://www.uahc.org/growth/kallot>.

President

Continued from page 5
our educator, Rabbi Bergadine. The success of these services only heightens our sadness at her decision to move to a new position at the Bureau of Jewish Education. Her presence has been a gift and we will miss her very much. I personally wish to express my thanks to her for the work she put into creating what promises to be the most successful year of Kadimah yet. Thank you, Martha, on behalf of all of us at Sha'ar Zahav.

Finally, please be sure to read the important messages in this month's *Forward*. You will learn that we are staying at Danvers until the end of November that Rabbi Litman's installation will be on December 5. Things will change rapidly in the coming months and the year promises to be an exciting one. I look forward to the adventures yet to come.

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San Francisco, CA 94118

Telephone
415 668-7876

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Alex Alznauer
 Lauren Augusta
 Jonathan Bell
 Drew Campbell
 Smokey Cormier
 Lauren, Sasha, Ida & Emma Cuttler
 Leah Finch, Adrienne Hornby, & Christopher & Sean Hornby-Finch
 Alan Foss
 Kathy Freel, Bill Goldstein, Emma Goldstein & Sarah Goldstein
 Stephanie Godt & Ellen Novogrodsky
 Lawrence Helman & Lisa Geduldig
 Jonathan Katz & Andre Dombrowski
 Susie Kisber
 Jeff Nathanson, Connie Tell, & Anya Nathanson-Tell
 Beth Ann Richman
 Myles Siltan
 Louisa Stone
 Tory Weiser
 Stephen Wilson, Catherine Witzling & Sophia Witzling Wilson

We are grateful that our congregation is growing. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Do you have e-mail?

Drop us a line at
shaarzahav@igc.apc.org.

Are you on the Net?

Visit our web site at
www.shaarzahav.org.

ALVIN BAUM JD, LCSW

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☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

1 Steve Polsky
 3 Elaine Porter
 3 Benjamin Ritzma Porter
 4 Matrishia Person
 5 Seth Frohman
 5 Eric Weiss
 6 Ruby Gold
 8 Misha Cohen
 8 Tova Green
 9 Stephan Howard
 9 Dutch Maas-Mikuls
 10 Elijah Lezell Jatovsky
 11 Patricia Lin
 12 Micha Klain-Chavez
 13 Zachery Barnes Miller
 14 Jonathan Goldman
 14 Linda Gordon
 16 Ruth Rainero
 18 Joel Levine
 21 Mara Shuster-Lefkowitz
 22 Byron Sigal
 24 Mark Bowers
 24 Ellie Cohen
 24 Alexis Lezin
 26 Rachel Dyner-Hamolsky
 26 Nancy Kates
 28 Alison Cohen
 28 Beatrice Lieberman
 28 Judy Schwartz
 29 Nina Kaiser
 29 Harold Podgur
 29 David Rosenzweig
 29 Mark Vogel

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored Onegs in October:

A special thanks to **Walter Leiss** for generously sponsoring the Rosh Hashanah Oneg and Yom Kippur Break Fast again this year.

10/17 **Barney Ugarte**, in honor of the yahrzeit of his mother, Wilma Ugarte, and the yahrzeit of his lover, George Cameron.

Rabbi

Continued from page 2

sions, joyous holiday observances—during the past month, that the high holidays already seem long behind us. However, I'd like to add my personal thanks to those of Diana Buchbinder's (see the President's column) to the many dedicated people who made the high holidays so special for all of us. And, of course, I wouldn't be much of a rabbi if I didn't remind you that our wonderful CSZ spirit isn't limited to the high holidays, but continues all through the year amid a wide variety of ritual, educational and social activities.

Naches

To **Michael Chertok**, on his new position as the Director of Marketing at Jewish Vocational Services.

To **Ed Lopatin**, on his new position with the Administrative Finance Division of the Juvenile Probation Department, and also on his new home.

To **Eric Temple**, on his new position as Director of Studies at Crystal Springs Uplands School.

To **Jeff Forman**, on his 40th birthday.

To **Geoff Benjamin**, on his new position with the campaign department of the Jewish Community Federation.

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Anniversaries

1 Barak Gale & Joe Puchot
 5 Ellie Cohen & Greta Miskatel
 6 James Edlin & Eve Meyer
 7 Jay Davidson & Tom Heartland
 8 Michael Bettinger & Robert Goldstein
 9 Carol Cabell & Gene Valeboe
 13 Drew Parker & Mike Sinai
 17 Lisa Katz & Sharon Heath
 24 Ann Daniels & Jonathan Zingman

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

INVENTORY SALE

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

GIFT SHOP

For All Things Judaic

Open Friday Nights 7:30-8:05 pm
 or by appointment 861-6932

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Jane Litman

Officers:

President, Diana Buchbinder
(337-6319 or
dbuchbin@puc.sf.ca.us)
First Vice President, David Gellman
Second Vice President, Susan
Tubbesing
Treasurer, Arthur Slepian
Recorder, Mark Bowers

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Michael Chertok
Ellie Cohen
Jeff Forman
Lyssa Friedman
Sara Haber
Joe Hample
Lisa Katz
Eileen Levy
Julie Moed

CSZ Staff:

Office Manager, Lea Salem
Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant, Amy Clark
Program Coordinator, Renée Bauer

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, open
Archives, open
ARZA contact, Ron Lezell
Baby Chavurah, Lisa Katz
Bequests and Donations, Richard
Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber
Bisexual Chavurah, Jim Frazin
Book Circle, Mark Mackler
Brotherhood, Stephan Howard
Building, Mark Klaiman
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Ruth
Rainero
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dues Liaison, Sara Haber
East Bay Services, Hilary Zaid
Endowment Fund, Merry Luskin
Environmental Action, Barak Gale and
Brian Besser

Finance, Arthur Slepian
Fine Arts, Alice Prussin
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
La'atid, Geoff Benjamin
Leadership Development, Irene Ogus
and Paul Cohen
Library, open
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Ami Zusman
Mishkan Dolores Campaign, Ellie
Cohen
Newsletter, Robin Leonard
Oneg, Allan Giannini
Past Presidents Council, Merry Luskin
Personnel, Susan Tubbesing
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Rabbi Liaison, David Stein
Ritual, Ora Prochovnick
Social Action, Eloise Magenheimer
Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah, Ilana
Bernstein
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WGGLJO Liaison, Neil Grungras
Women's Chavurah, open

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair
are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

Office Hours: Monday–Friday from 9 am
to 3 pm (861-6932).

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a
member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospi-
tal or at home, and would like to have a
member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee
call or visit, please notify the synagogue
office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew
Congregations and of the World Congress
of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Services are held every Friday evening
beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted),
with an Oneg Shabbat following services.

Services are generally held on the second
Saturday of each month at 10 am — check
calendar for each month.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm
and by appointment

Library Hours: Open during office hours.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congrega-
tion of the Golden Gate) is located in the
Upper Market District of San Francisco at
220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block
south of the intersection of 18th and Market
streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus
33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk
one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Interim

Continued from page 1

cific information about office hours will
appear in the December *Forward*.

We hope to keep the same phone and
fax numbers. If we must change our
phone number, we will keep our cur-
rent one as an information line.

Patience Is Appreciated

Our office staff and a few stalwart
volunteers will take on the massive task
of moving 11 years of history, paper and
furniture, putting some in storage and
some in our temporary office space in St.
Matthew's. Needless to say, this will take
time and organization. Accordingly, our
office will be closed between November
24 and December 5. You can always reach
us in an emergency; call our message
line for instructions. In addition, the of-
fice staff will check voicemail daily.

The office staff and Rabbi Litman very
much appreciate your patience during
this challenging time. Please understand
that sending thank you letters and han-
dling other non-emergency matters may
take a little longer during this period. If
you have non-urgent requests, please
put them on hold, until we get settled in
our interim space.

Meetings

By and large, committees will not meet
at St. Matthew's. Each committee will
make its own arrangements; most com-
mittees will meet in members' homes.
The location of Va'ad meetings will be
announced in the December *Forward*.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to our
members:

Allan Giannini, on the death of
his former wife, Mary Lou
Giannini.

**Jana Rickerson and Karen
Erlichman**, on the death of their
aunt, Charlie Verna Sessions.

Rabbi Jane Litman and family,
on the death of Rabbi Litman's
cousin, Julie Litman.

Bob Katz, on the death of his
brother-in-law, Alec Levy.

**Susan Jacobson and Byron
Sigal**, on the death of Susan's
grandmother, Elma Bravender.

Phil Charney, on the death of his
mother, Rose Charney.

Allan Berenstein, on the death
of his cousin, Sherrie Kantor.

Contributions

AIDS Fund

Susan Simpson, in memory of Dennis Shouten.

Adult Education

Jeanette Nichols, in honor of Paul Cohen.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Inbal Kashtan, in memory of Gili Patir.

Allan Ferrara and Alan Gold, in memory of Michael Hauptman.

Ari and Melissa Grossman Naples, in appreciation of Paul Cohen's participation at Doron's *pidyon haben*.

The family of Marsha Blachman, in memory of Rose Charney.

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in memory of Rose Charney.

Mike Rankin, in memory of Tiger.

Chesir Stein Music Fund

Ellen Lewin, in memory of Joseph Lewin.

Children's Education Fund

Jeannette Nichols, in honor of Phyllis Mintzer.

Alan Ferrara and Alan Gold, in honor of the arrival of Miriam Zoe Katz.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Lena Erickson.

Bernie Choden and Lois Scott, in honor of Leva Choden.

Alan Ferrara and Alan Gold, in honor of the continued health of Isa Cymrot-Wu.

Paul Cohen, in honor of Doron, Melissa and Ari Grossman Naples.

Sue Bojdak, in honor of Paul Cohen.

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in memory of Michael Hauptman and Mary Lou Giannini.

Steven and Sheryl Saginaw, in honor of Ron Lezell.

General Fund

Gloria and Warren Freedgood, in memory of Jim Freedgood on his 47th birthday.

Howard Steiermann.

Kenny Altman, in memory of David Altman.

Judy Heiman, in memory of Bella Zibelman Heiman.

Charles B. Katzenstein, in memory of Leon Spector.

Alice Prussin and Smokey Cormier, in honor of Ron Lezell's tireless effort for ARZA.

Mark Schoenberg, in memory of Betty Schoenberg.

Carol and Jordan Leviton, in memory of

Frank Hyman.

Perry Paker, in memory of Isidor Paker.

Karen Erlichman and Jana Rickerson, in memory of Louis Inturrisi.

Sue Bojdak, in appreciation of Renée Bauer for sitting on her Beit Din and witnessing her conversion.

Lucy Bernholz, in memory of Gertrude Bernholz.

Marla Kaye and Amy Klapper.

Rabbi Miriam Senturia.

Inclusive Liturgy Fund

Renée Bauer, in honor of the service leading debuts of Sarita Groisser and Patricia Lin.

Ellen Lewin, in memory of Fannie Lewin.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Ferrara and Alan Gold, in honor of Robin Leonard's birthday.

Allan Ferrara and Alan Gold, in honor of Rabbi Litman's receipt of the Jewish Women's Caucus Award.

Sue Bojdak, in appreciation of Rabbi Litman for officiating and celebrating her conversion.

Ari and Melissa Grossman Naples, in appreciation of Rabbi Litman's officiation at Doron's *pidyon haben*.

High Holiday Donations

Batya Kalis and Marion Trentman

Harriet Tucker, in memory of Ruth Gelmis

Mike Rankin

Ellen Kugler

Gordon Osser, in honor of the CSZ staff

Jim O'Donnell, in honor of Alex Ingersoll and David Stein

Rosyland and Bob Bauer, in honor of Renée Bauer

Susan Stahl

Allan Berenstein

Richard Sinkoff, in honor Dr. Marvin W. Sinkoff

Marsha Blachman

Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser

Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath

Stephanie Hannaford

Nina Wouk and Jessie Ap'neva

Rick Mehler

Danielle Diamond, in honor of Andrew Diamond Karasek

Mark Troy, in memory of Ephraim Troy

Gabriele Kassner and Shelley Spiro

Lonny Darwin

Nash Yaeger

Susan Freundlich and Elizabeth Seja Min

Jeffrey Lilly, in memory of Clyde Lilly, Jr.

Margaret Rossoff

Adam Block

Randy Heilbrunn, in memory of Walter

Mimi Steinberg

Judith Noel

Suzanne London

Gail Stein

R. K. Bernstein

Leonard Brill

Sarah Rosenthal

Sarah Nathe

Nikki Bengal

Dr. James D. Halpern

Louis Hirschmann

Classifieds

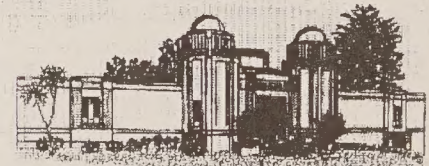
WE ARE TWO GUYS living in the Netherlands, who are extremely enthusiastic about San Francisco. We'll be coming for our third visit December 19-30, and are looking for an apartment in which we can stay during that period. We can pay rent and we promise to take excellent care of the place. Please contact Nimrod Moyal, 31-70-3617313 (phone) or n.moyal@asatsu.nl (email).

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PART TIME HELP WANTED! Self-motivated individual with strong background and interest in Judaica, books and music. Retail experience and Point of Sale a plus. Send or fax resume to: Mazel Tov Gifts, 5138 Geary Blvd., SE, CA 94118; fax: 415/668-2411.

KAUAI TROPICAL GARDEN RETREAT: Enchanting setting, perfect for nurturing, healing, romancing. Royal Drive Cottages. Bob Levine/Sandy Meyers Ph/fax, 808/822-2321.

CLUTTER BUSTERS: A Professional Organizer. Are schmutzim & chachkes confounding your life? Afraid to open your closet? Packing for a move? Reorganizing after a death? I help you minimize, then reorganize your home, office, garage. References provided. Call 487-8959.



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1 Saturday 1 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah 	9 Sunday 9 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Shomrei Adamah at Tennessee Valley, carpool from CSZ leaves at 8:30 am 	16 Sunday 16 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30 am, Baby Chavurah, home of Connie Tell, Jeff Nathanson and Anya Nathanson-Tell 5 pm, New member potluck, Community Room, 345 Church St. 	22 Saturday 22 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah
2 Sunday 2 Heshvan	10 Monday 10 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting 	17 Monday 17 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 pm, Healing Service, Sherith Israel 7 pm, Membership Committee 7 pm, Newsletter layout 	23 Sunday 23 Heshvan
3 Monday 3 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 pm, Healing service, Sherith Israel 7 pm, CEB in library 8 pm, Book Group with Judith Katz 	11 Tuesday 11 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Jewish History class 7 pm, Trope class 	18 Tuesday 18 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Jewish History class 7 pm, Trope class 	24 Monday 24 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office closed
4 Tuesday 4 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Jewish History class 7 pm, Trope class 	12 Wednesday 12 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew class 7 pm, Newsletter editing 	19 Wednesday 19 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew class 	25 Tuesday 25 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office closed 7 pm, Jewish History class 7 pm, Trope class
5 Wednesday 5 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, A&D Committee 7 pm, Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew class 	13 Thursday 13 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Return of Sarah's Daughters," JCCSF, 3200 California St. 	20 Thursday 20 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim 7:30 pm, Service Leaders' Initiative 	26 Wednesday 26 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office closed Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew class
6 Thursday 6 Heshvan	14 Friday 14 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:41 pm, Candle lighting 6:45 pm, Tot Shabbat and oneg in library led by Rabbi Litman and Tiela Chalmers 7:15 pm, Niggun service 8:15 pm, Shabbat Va-Yera, musical service led by Patricia Lin and Nicole Bloom; oneg to welcome new members 	21 Friday 21 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:36 pm, Candle lighting 8:15 pm, East Bay service 8:15 pm, Shabbat Chaye Sarah, Goodbye to Danvers Street, sermon by Rabbi Litman; special oneg celebration 	27 Thursday 27 Heshvan Thanksgiving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office closed
7 Friday 7 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:47 pm, Candle lighting 7 pm, Early Kabbalat Shabbat 8:15 pm, Shabbat Lech Lecha; service led by Rabbi Litman and Brian Besser 	15 Saturday 15 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah 3 pm, HIV Support Group led by Rabbi Litman and Rob Tat 	28 Friday 28 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:34 pm, Candle lighting 8:15 pm, Shabbat Toledot, led by Brian Besser, Dana Vinicoff and Mike Rankin; final service at Danvers Street 	29 Saturday 29 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Kadimah
8 Saturday 8 Heshvan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah 10 am, Shabbat service led by Frank Yellin and Batya Kalis 7 pm, Prospective Member Havdalah, Community Room, 345 Church St. 9 pm, La'atid, Kiddush Levana, meet at Community Room, 345 Church St. 			30 Sunday 1 Kislev

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

DECEMBER FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Please submit articles both on 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper double spaced. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. No deadline extensions without advance permission of the editorial coordinator, Robin Leonard, at 841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com.

East Bay Services

- 11/21 Location TBA; call Hilary Zaid at 510/654-8907
- 12/19 Location TBA; call Hilary Zaid at 510/654-8907

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The Jewish Community Joins Forces To Help Project Open Hand

Join Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, the AIDS Project of Jewish Family and Children's Services and our friends in the Bay Area Jewish community during the Christmas season for a few hours to perform a wonderful mitzvah.

We will be preparing and delivering meals for Project Open Hand's clients, people living with symptomatic HIV/AIDS.

There are 150 volunteer slots this year in San Francisco.

You must sign up by December 5 to participate in this rewarding volunteer effort. To volunteer, please complete this form and return it to:

**Stephan Howard
22 Terra Vista Avenue #D1
San Francisco, CA 94115
567-2886**

Feel free to call Stephan with any questions or to sign up by phone if this form will not arrive by December 5.

PLEASE NOTE

**Project Open Hand
HAS MOVED TO
730 Polk Street
at Ellis**

Please print clearly

Adult(s): _____

Children: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Car? _____

Deliveries are done by teams of at least two adults.

If you don't have a car, we will pair you with a driver.

How did you hear about this project? _____

Shift Availability

*Please check **all** shifts for which you are available.*

Can you do more than one shift? _____

How many? _____ Same day? _____ Different days? _____

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
San Francisco	Dec. 23	Dec. 24	Dec. 25
Food preparation: 8:30 am – Noon	No shift	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food packaging: 11:30 am – 3 pm	No shift	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver meals: See below	No shift	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food preparation: 5 – 8 pm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No shift

Food preparation volunteers must be at least 15 years old.

Meal delivery routes take approximately two hours to complete. You must arrive no earlier than 3:30 pm and no later than 4:30 pm. Enter at Willow Street off Larkin to pick up meals for delivery.

Orientation Sessions

Ongoing orientation sessions will be given at Project Open Hand's offices on both December 24 and 25 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. Please allow at least 10 minutes extra for your training. Orientation is required for new volunteers and optional for experienced volunteers.

Confirmations

Please do not show up at Project Open Hand's offices unless you have received a written or phone confirmation from Laura Lowe, who can be reached at 824-4532 (h) or 247-2409 (w).

Other Holiday Opportunities

If you would like to know how you can help at other times during the holiday season (the weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years'), please call Marilyn at Project Open Hand San Francisco (447-2312).

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